by the ideological inconsistencies among its constituent units, with the result the Ministry failed to function as a team as approach to certain issues, especially law and order, followed by the leading partner in the Left Democratic Front, could not be endorsed by the other constituent parties of the coalition and this failure had very serious repercussions on the functioning of the entire administrative machinery. Political clashes resulting in several murders and harassment of the public by organised groups of anti-social elements put the life of the common man under severe strain. The agricultural scene and the industrial landscape were disturbed by unrest.

3. In these circumstances some parties decided to leave the Left United Front for forming a stable, democratically-oriented alternate Government that would function with dynamism, unity and clarity of purpose, and total commitment to the progress of the State and the welfare of its people. Such an alternative, apart from its constitutional justification, was found to be absolutely essential for restoring law and order, activising the administrative machinery, and most of all, for ensuring the progress of the State through well-conceived and well co-ordinated administrative policies and programmes. Fully aware of these imperative necessities, my Government has already accorded top-most priority to the restoration of law and order by putting down with a firm hand all anti-social elements, irrespective of their political affiliations. My Government is committed to ensure to every citizen the freedom to follow his normal avocation in peace. Violence, in whatever form or in whatever field, will be curbed promptly and effectively. The law and order machinery and the crime detection agencies will be allowed to function freely and without fear or favour. Secondly my Government is committed to streamline the administrative apparatus so that the fruits of planned economic development will reach the common man in full measure and without delay. Every effort will be made to mobilise the economic resources of the State and to utilise them in a way that ensures avoidance of waste and optimum benefit to the weaker sections of the community. Most important of all, my Government shall be following a realistic policy of constructive co-operation with the Union Government. However, let me add that while a political or administrative confrontation with the Union Government will never be adopted, my Government will not hesitate to take up promptly with the Union Government and pursue energetically any matter that is likely to affect adversely the interests of the people of this State.

4. Kerala has passed its Silver Jubilee year and is now running its 26th year. During this period the State has projected a progressive image committed to the welfare of the people. However, prosperity of the State can be ensured only by single-minded dedication to the task of improving agricultural and industrial production. Our Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi has recently announced the revised Twenty Point Programme for invigorating the economy and affording relief to the poor. My Government will devote all its energies to the vigorous implementation of this programme. As the Prime Minister has said: "There is only one magic which can remove

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